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War Time
Service
To Soldiers
And Civilians



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Men, Women, and Children
of Province Reap
the Benefits

Ontario's War Record

Ontario holds a proud and outstanding place among the provinces of Canada. During the years of the war when the utmost effort and sacrifice were required, Ontario proved her worth as the keystone in the Canadian Confederation. Ontario gave in men 232,895; for patriotic purposes in money and kind, \$54,532,180; subscribed to Victory Loans, \$540,465,550. In comparative terms, Ontario contributed half of Canada's war effort.

It is opportune then to consider in more or less detail the actual war achievements of the Ontario Government.

Shortly after the outbreak of the war, when food was short and Belgium was starving, the Government of the Province purchased and presented to the Mother Country 250,000 bags of flour at a cost of \$780,468. This was followed by donations for the relief of the Belgians, amounting to \$20,000; grants to the British navy and Belgian relief, \$424,871; to the Serbian relief and Polish relief committees, of \$10,000 and \$4,000 respectively; \$5,000 to the Italian Red Cross Committee; \$2,500 to the Palestine Relief Commission; \$10,000 to the Ontario Branch, Secours Nationale; \$29,660 to the Navy League of Canada; \$200,000 to the sufferers in the Halifax disaster; \$25,000 to Byron Tuberculosis Sanitarium, London (for returned soldiers); \$25,000 to the Mountain Tuberculosis Sanitarium, Hamilton (for returned soldiers); \$50,000 to the Canadian Aviation Fund.

A non-partisan body was created, known as the Resources Committee, for the purpose of better organizing the resources of the Province. This Committee took an active part in encouraging increased production, directing labor, and patriotic collections, such as the British Red Cross campaign. The sum of \$760,000 was paid out by the Committee in connection with its various activities, and it is significant to note that under the stimulation of the movement for a greater production of food-stuffs the farm crops of Ontario increased in value in four years by over \$200,000,000.

In the early months of the war, when Canadian troops were being decimated by the German preponderance in machine guns, the Ontario Government appropriated \$500,000 to purchase 500 Lewis-Savage machine guns, to be issued to Canadian battalions.

Ontario's House of Mercy

While these matters were receiving attention, the Government made enquiries in England to ascertain the best manner in which the Province might further help. The reply came that a hospital would represent the highest and most efficient form

of patriotic participation. Accordingly Honorable R. A. Pyne was despatched to England to confer with the Imperial authorities. In a short time it was announced that the Government of Ontario would build and equip a hospital of the latest military type at Orpington, Kent, England, with a capacity of over 1,000 beds. Construction was rushed in England; in Ontario at the different provincial institutions, work was eagerly undertaken to provide equipment and furnishings. Ere the building was roofed over supplies began to arrive. When everything was in order to receive patients the hospital was pronounced the most complete and efficient of its kind in war service, and its plan was adopted by other Governments as a model. In less than a year after it was opened, in response to a request for further accommodation, the capacity was doubled. The total expenditure, including construction, equipment and furnishing, maintenance and extension, amounted to \$1,298,292—the gift, goodwill and pride of the Province of Ontario.

It should be a matter of gratification to every man, woman and child who enjoys citizenship in this Province, to know that during its entire course over 43,000 patients were treated at Orpington. In surgical and psychiatric treatment it was most successful. A tribute to its ministrations appeared recently in a cable despatch in which it was spoken of as the “House of Mercy.”

“First Fruits” for the Wounded

As battalions proceeded from Canada overseas the interest of the Government followed them. Canned fruit and vegetables, the choicest apples from Ontario orchards were sent over in large quantities for distribution among the hospitals and institutions, while encouragement was given to voluntary effort along the same lines and the supply was considerably augmented. These shipments went not alone to the Western front—the men in Egypt, Mesopotamia and Siberia were remembered as well. This cost over \$200,000. As Christmas came around the Government marked the occasion with gifts and comforts of practical utility. The men who received the gloves in 1917 will remember this timely and thoughtful incident.

Athletic supplies costing \$26,000 were distributed among the camps.

To enable the Canadian Patriotic Fund to continue its assistance to the families whose breadwinners were overseas fighting, \$2,101,000 was paid in grants.

The Red Triangle work of the Y.M.C.A. was assisted to the extent of \$100,000.

When the soldiers returned to London on leave comfortable quarters in a Canadian environment were provided by the Government in the Maple Leaf Clubs. These clubs were largely financed by the Ontario Government at a cost of nearly one hundred thousand dollars.

Soldiers' Aid Commission

In the fall of 1915 the Soldiers' Aid Commission was created, and opened 205 branches. This Commission undertook to care for returned men and their dependents, Imperial army veterans and men discharged from Allied forces. Over 120,000 men have passed through the records of the Commission. A relief fund was provided to assist those in need. A total of 12,497 loans have been made, aggregating \$331,882. This Commission worked in co-operation with the Department of Labor, and has been successful in placing thousands of men in satisfactory positions. Ninety per cent. of all applicants have been satisfactorily placed. The Trades and Labor Department, which has now assumed this work, has established branch offices in every important city in the Province, and 40 per cent. of those in charge of those offices are members of organized labor and 50 per cent. returned soldiers.

The Government took up the problem of the men incapacitated by war service, and established a system of vocational training. This work was entrusted to the Commission, who organized a staff of experts to give free advice and instruction. In the three years that this vocational branch has been in operation 15,000 students have passed through the classes, and 5,358 have been trained for new occupations. Of the staff of 276 instructors the majority have seen active service.

A comfortable hostel for soldiers' children is maintained in Toronto. To deal with special cases of distress, a staff of women visitors has been organized whose duty it is to make personal calls and provide necessary advice and assistance. Over 10,000 visits have been made.

Soldiers, sailors and nurses below the age of twenty-one years were given the full electoral franchise. The Assessment Act was amended so that the homes of soldiers assessed for not more than \$3,000 could be exempted from taxation, and changes were made in the mining laws protecting soldier-prospectors against loss of their rights in mining claims and a generous extension for doing assessment work was allowed during the post-war period.

The soldiers' settlement at Kapuskasing provides agricultural training for those who desire to take up holdings in Northern Ontario. A fund is provided to make advances for stock and

equipment and the soldier is placed on a partially cleared farm with a house and barn ready for occupation, and all facilities to make a good start in the new country.

The Department of Education has opened the way for those who wish to enter the teaching profession. Special courses and facilities are maintained to meet the need of the many hundreds who see in the future advance of education in Ontario an attractive professional career, while others who wish to continue their academic studies find special terms opened to them at the universities and high schools.

Under the Housing Scheme special advantages are extended to returned soldiers.

Food Conservation

One of the most effective efforts put forward by any Government to deal with the food shortage during the war was that initiated in Ontario to induce the people to make greater use of fish. Pound for pound the consumption of fish would release beef, bacon and other meats for export; and at the same time enable householders to purchase edible food at prices that would mean a great saving.

When this service started in 1917 over 80 per cent. of the fish caught in Ontario waters was exported to markets outside the Province. The Government undertook to procure fish from Lakes Nipigon and Nipissing, and later reserved 20 per cent. of the catch of licensed fishermen. These fish were sold to over 200 municipalities at actual cost. This policy immediately popularized the eating of fish, and during the year the Government distributed over 4,000,000 pounds of fish—double the amount consumed before the war.

This system of distribution had a marked domestic benefit. It enabled the housewife to purchase fresh fish at from 5 to 10 cents a pound lower than before, and by reason of this competition the price of fish handled through other channels was reduced, while the quantity increased. It is estimated that the entire saving was not less than \$500,000 in twelve months.

Women Enfranchised

The Franchise Act was amended in 1918, giving the legislative franchise to women on the same basis as men; women properly qualified, also may be candidates for municipal offices, and women are now entitled to be nominated to sit in the Legislative Assembly. In respect of soldiers, nurses and others who have served in the military or naval forces of Britain or her Allies, the age requirement has been removed.

Public Health

The public health service of Ontario has been reorganized and enlarged by the Government. The Province has been divided into health districts, each supervised by an officer who devotes his whole time to the work. Anti-toxins for the treatment of certain diseases are manufactured and distributed free of charge in any quantity desired, and, in consequence, many lives are saved. Free laboratory diagnosis enables prompt control to be kept where epidemic threatens. The Department was called upon to supply all the typhoid vaccine used by the Canadian troops. Over 2,000,000 doses were provided, and this dreaded disease was practically non-existent amongst the Canadian soldiers.

A department of sanitary engineering provides expert advice on sewage disposal and water purification for municipalities and individuals.

The Child Welfare Bureau gives free advice to mothers on the care of their babies.

A campaign on public health education, including a moving picture show, is carried on throughout the Province.

The Province has the lowest death rate of any community of its size in the world.

Hospital Reform.

Ten hospitals for the treatment of mental diseases have supplanted the former odiously-termed "insane asylums" in Ontario. This has been brought about by a careful, thorough and timely reorganization of these institutions, and is in line with the work inaugurated by the late Hon. W. J. Hanna in prison reform, which sounded the fame of Ontario all over the civilized world. In order to carry out modern ideas of treatment, each hospital was enlarged and, to a considerable extent, rebuilt, and special equipment designed. The new institution at Whitby (Toronto hospital) is declared to be the latest word on hospital design and equipment. Now that the war is over this hospital, which the Government placed at the disposal of the military authorities so long as it was needed for the soldiers, is available for its original purpose. This improvement, which began fifteen years ago, has kept steady pace with the march of events. A training system for nurses was established, giving a three years' course equal to the best provided at any general hospital. The facilities thus created have been of immense value to the military authorities during the war, when heavy drafts were made upon the medical and nursing resources of the Province. Each hospital has developed a department of vocational training, whereby the patient's interest is aroused and much accomplished if not a permanent cure effected.

During the present year \$1,271,700 will be spent in improvements and enlargements to the various buildings, to make them more commodious and capable of better service.

In 1917 a beneficial measure was passed enabling alcoholic or drug addicts to secure the benefit of treatment at these institutions without objectionable notoriety. This legislation was copied in many places.

A Home For Every Child.

The Province makes large annual grants to hospitals and charities that carry on work of a public character. How these grants have grown may be seen from the following table:

1904	\$236,592
1913	416,812
1918	574,757

Ontario was the pioneer province in Canada to take up the question of the care of dependent and neglected children. Since its inception the work of the Branch has been enlarged and made more efficient. The organization maintained now extends into every part of the Province. The main features of the work are (1) the prevention of cruelty or ill-treatment of children; (2) to provide good foster homes for homeless children and not send them to orphanages or other institutions. The law was enlarged to provide for the establishment of juvenile courts for the separate trial of children. Carrying out its purpose in this respect, the Dependent and Neglected Children's Branch working through the Children's Aid Society, has sixty-two branches in Ontario. Along with these branches there are forty-five agents, whose work is having a marked result in the reduction in the number of cases that finally reach the courts. Increased governmental appropriations enable a close inspection to be kept on the 5,000 children in the foster homes, while the records of the Branch show that some 16,000 have passed through the hands of the officers of the society.

Implementing the extension of the legislative franchise to women, amendments were made to the Municipal Act, enabling women, properly qualified, to vote at municipal elections and to hold municipal offices. Heretofore this has applied only to elections for school boards or boards of education. Farmers daughters are also eligible as school trustees.

Coal and Food Shortage

To meet the situation arising out of the coal shortage, the Provincial Secretary implemented the desire of local municipalities to establish fuel yards, enabling legislation being passed. Later, municipalities were empowered to purchase seeds and plants to aid in crop production during the food scarcity.

Town Planning Act

Under the Town Planning Act, municipalities were given control of the subdivision of farms lands within suburban areas.

During the last session of the Legislature, following a report of a special committee which met to consider the revision of the Assessment Law, a number of sweeping reforms were enacted. These may be briefly cited as follows:

Assessment Reform

In cities the exemption on income to householders was increased from \$1,400 to \$1,700; for non-householders, from \$1,200 to \$1,400.

In rural parts the exemption for householders is \$700; for non-householders \$500.

No income derived from investments below \$800 is taxable, and \$800 exemption is allowed until the income reaches \$1,500, when the entire amount is taxed.

Authority was given to municipalities by by-law to grade the assessment on houses as follows:

On an assessment not exceeding \$2,000, for 50% of the value.

On an assessment not exceeding \$2,500, for 60% of the value.

On an assessment not exceeding \$3,000, for 70% of the value.

On an assessment not exceeding \$3,500, for 80% of the value.

On an assessment not exceeding \$4,000, for 90% of the value.

Other amendments included provision to make the receipts of telephone companies from long distance service taxable, and land owned by a municipal corporation and used for the purpose of a public utility to be assessed at the average value of the surrounding land.

In the case of soldiers who have returned from active service overseas, the council of any municipality may, without the vote of the electors, exempt from taxation, except for local improvements and school purposes, for a period not exceeding ten years, any dwelling house not assessed for more than \$3,000 owned and occupied by such soldier.

In order to determine the serviceableness of the taxation of land values only, authority was given the City of Ottawa, on a vote of the electors, to eliminate on a graduated scale the entire assessment on improvements.

Millions for Cheap Homes

Prior to the conference of Provincial Premiers in Ottawa last fall, Sir William Hearst, through the Organization of Resources Committee, had an inquiry made into the housing question to ascertain the actual shortage of modern priced houses.

On receiving the report, the Government announced a loan of \$2,000,000 to municipalities to construct workingmen's houses. When in Ottawa the Premier urged on the conference that this was a matter for Federal action. His view prevailed, and \$25,000,000 is to be advanced by the Dominion Government to the provinces to assist in building comfortable homes at low cost. Ontario's share of this \$25,000,000 for 1919 will be about \$8,500,000, which, with the \$2,000,000 already promised from the Provincial Treasury, will make available over \$11,500,000 for this important and necessary undertaking.

Under the plan outlined by the Director of Municipal Affairs, the money is advanced at a low rate of interest, repayable in small instalments in twenty years. Farmers may also partake of the scheme for improvements, buildings, etc. Altogether some ninety municipalities have passed by-laws to participate in the plan, and 4,000 houses will be erected before next spring, providing on the one hand relief from the present congestion, and giving work to many hundreds of artisans.

Motion Picture Service

The Ontario Government early realized the great possibilities in the use of motion pictures for education and entertainment. In 1917 a Motion Picture Bureau was established to provide a service, and to arrange for placing before the people animated pictures of important Government undertakings, such as highway construction, land clearing, forest fire protection, fishing, and the proper methods of performing the more important duties in connection with agriculture, horticulture, bee-keeping, etc.

The Department of Agriculture has added a motion picture projecting apparatus as part of the equipment of the District Offices. From the Bureau in Toronto a service is available for meetings of Farmers' Clubs, Women's Institutes, churches, schools, and almost every social enterprise that occurs in the rural parts.

Since its inception over one hundred subjects have been listed, over 2,000 exhibitions given to audiences approximating one million people.

Protects Properties

The first session after the commencement of the war the Government proposed what is known as moratorium legislation to protect those who had invested in small properties, from loss consequent upon the dislocation of trade. The bill was designed to create as little disturbance as possible to those secured under mortgage agreements, and yet provide some relief for others who were for the time being unable to meet their obligations. This Act has been generally commended.

Funds for Charities

The Charities Accounting Act requires trustees of an estate where bequests have been left to charities, the selection of which has been left to the executor or trustee, to give a proper accounting so that it may be determined that no funds have been misapplied.

Use of Water Power

Legislation for the control and economical use of water powers to meet a situation which was accentuated by the shortage of fuel and the increased demand for power for war manufacturing was passed in 1916. This law was enlarged in 1917 to provide for the appointment of a commission of judges to investigate any violations of franchises.

Loans to Farmers

By legislation passed in 1918 municipal councils may make loans to farmers for buildings and improvements in much the same manner as money may be advanced for tile drainage on farms.

Public Service

The public service of the Province has been placed on a merit basis by the appointment of a Civil Service Commissioner.

Reduce Fire Losses

A vigorous effort has been made by the Department of the Fire Marshal to lessen the large annual fire loss in the Province. The fire waste in Ontario for 1918 amounted to \$15,673,240, divided among 9,740 fires, an average of one every hour of the day or night. Most of these fires were caused by carelessness; practically two out of every three fires occur in homes. Through the efforts of the Fire Marshal there has been a reduction of 20 per cent. in the number of fires for the first five months of 1919, and a reduction in the amount of loss by 46 per cent. The work of this Department is two-fold, educational and investigational. Its aim is to secure both co-operation and prevention, and already significant results have been obtained.

County Judges

During the session of 1919 an Act was passed reducing the number of County Judges. The plan limits the number to one judge for each county, except in the larger cities, and is to be brought about by transferring the present judges to fill vacancies as they occur. It abolishes the fee system, and names a flat amount to be paid annually by the Province. When the scheme is in full operation the annual saving will be \$100,000.



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